

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for a user to interface with a workflow server, including:

accepting a task form from the user, the said task form containing data tags and process tags, the said data tags identifying a plurality of first data components persisted and a plurality of second non-persisted data components, wherein the plurality of first data components consist of data that will be kept in a database table after the task form is filled out and submitted by the user, and the plurality of second data components consists of data that is not modifiable by the user when the user fills out the task form;

passing the said task form to an XML Execution Engine;

accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute the said process tags and how to interpret the said data tags;

storing the plurality of first said-persisted data components in one or more form data tables;

executing the said process tags to create an XML document, accessing a database if necessary;

returning ~~an~~ the XML document back to the said user, said XML document containing a reference to an XSL file and containing the output of the said execution of the said process tags; and

displaying the said XML document using the said XSL file.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said accepting includes accepting a user document from the user via a web browser.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the said process tags indicate one or more processes to be executed and the said data tags indicate information.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the said data tags and process tags are XML tags found in the said XML name space.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the said XSL file defines a style sheet for displaying the said returned XML document in the said web browser.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the said XML namespace contains tags which define data tables, substitute data retrieved from said database, perform workflow functions, and generate the said returned XML document according to logic described in the said tags.

13-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for a user to interface with a workflow server, the method including:

accepting a task form from the user, the said task form containing data tags and process tags, the said data tags identifying a plurality of first data components persisted and a plurality of

second non-persisted data components, wherein the plurality of first data components consist of data that will be kept in a database table after the task form is filled out and submitted by the user, and the plurality of second data components consists of data that is not modifiable by the user when the user fills out the task form;

passing the said task form to an XML Execution Engine;

accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute the said process tags and how to interpret the said data tags;

storing the plurality of first said-persisted data components in one or more form data tables;

executing the said process tags to create an XML document, accessing a database if necessary;

returning ~~an~~ the XML document back to the said user, said XML document containing a reference to an XSL file and containing the output of the said execution of the said process tags; and

displaying the said XML document using the said XSL file.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the said data tags include user-defined types.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the said data tags include a single select type, wherein the said single select type defines a set of possible values from which a user may select a single entry.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the said data tags include a multiple select type, wherein the said multiple select type defines a set of possible values from which a user may select multiple entries.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the said data tags include a multiple column type, wherein the said multiple column type defines a set of possible values from a base form data table, wherein a workflow server generates a separate column for each of the said possible values from the said base form data table.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for a user to interface with a workflow server, including:

means for accepting a task form from the user, the said task form containing data tags and process tags, the said data tags identifying a plurality of first data components persisted and a plurality of second non-persisted data components, wherein the plurality of first data components consist of data that will be kept in a database table after the task form is filled out and submitted by the user, and the plurality of second data components consists of data that is not modifiable by the user when the user fills out the task form;

means for passing the said task form to an XML Execution Engine;

means for accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute the said process tags and how to interpret the said data tags;

means for storing the plurality of first said-persisted data components in one or more form data tables;

means for executing the said process tags to create an XML document, accessing a database if necessary;

means for returning ~~an~~ the XML document back to the ~~said~~ user, said XML document containing a reference to an XSL file and containing the output of the ~~said~~ execution of the ~~said~~ process tags; and

means for displaying the ~~said~~ XML document using the ~~said~~ XSL file.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for accepting includes means for accepting a user document from the user via a web browser.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the ~~said~~ process tags indicate one or more processes to be executed and the ~~said~~ data tags indicate information.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~said~~ data tags and process tags are XML tags found in the ~~said~~ XML name space.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the ~~said~~ XSL file defines a style sheet for displaying the ~~said~~ returned XML document in the ~~said~~ web browser.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the ~~said~~ XML namespace contains tags which define data tables, substitute data retrieved from the ~~said~~ database, perform workflow functions, and generate the ~~said~~ returned XML document according to logic described in the ~~said~~ tags.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the ~~said~~ data tags include user-defined types.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the ~~said~~ data tags include a single select type, wherein the ~~said~~ single select type defines a set of possible values from which a user may select a single entry.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the ~~said~~ data tags include a multiple select type, wherein the ~~said~~ multiple select type defines a set of possible values from which a user may select multiple entries.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the ~~said~~ data tags include a multiple column type, wherein the ~~said~~ multiple column type defines a set of possible values from a base form data table, wherein a workflow server generates a separate column for each of the ~~said~~ possible values from the ~~said~~ base form data table.